



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 14, 1999

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Senior Reclamation Specialist *aaJ*

RE: Site Inspection, Roger Mahoney, Roberts Bottom Mine, S/019/036, Grand County, Utah

Date of Inspection: April 30, 1999  
Time of Inspection: 1227 - 1300  
Conditions: Partly cloudy, cool  
Participants: Sal Venticinque, BLM; Tony Gallegos and Doug Jensen, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To examine this placer mine site to determine its status

There were no structures or equipment on site at the time of this inspection. Division files list the site status as possibly abandoned, since attempts to contact Mr. Mahoney have been unsuccessful. The first area examined was the main excavation and processing area. This area is located away from the banks of the Dolores River beneath some large cottonwood trees. The main excavation was paced out as being approximately 38 feet wide, 75 feet long. The excavation is rectangular in shape although the banks have eroded in several places. The excavation ramps down to a depth of approximately 12+ feet. Photographs were taken of this excavation looking down towards the deep end. The excavated materials appeared to be piled near the edges of this trench. During active operations this excavation was used for storage and settling of water used in the screening operations.

A GPS unit was used to locate a coordinate point at the vehicle location named RB1. In this main processing area was an earthen ramp with wooden supports. The ramp may have been used to load or unload equipment from a truck or flatbed. There was also a pile of reject gravels in this main area of a few cubic yards in volume. The main area also appears to be a popular camping site.

The main access road to the mine site and one road down to the river are considered as existing roads. There are several other short spur roads leading from the mine site down to the river which were probably created by mining operations. There was one path and one road which were blazed down to the river as part of this mine operation. The road leads to a trench-like excavation at the end of the path, closer to the main river channel. This trench excavation was paced as being approximately 100 feet long, 23 feet wide, and 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> feet deep at one end.

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Another separate excavation is located closer to the riverbank. This excavation would be better described as a pit rather than a trench; however, it has a 90° elbow which extends into a longer excavation. Both of these excavations are overgrown with vegetation, but the area is noticeably disturbed. There is a road that leads from this excavation back to the main processing area.

Along this road back in the camp, there is another small excavation off to the side. As mentioned earlier, most of these excavations are overgrown but the vegetation is generally estimated to be less than five years old based on the size, and possibly less than two years old in some areas.

It should be noted that most of the disturbances created by mining activities at this site are revegetating naturally. Natural invasion of vegetation is stabilizing some of the excavations. There appear to be no contaminated soils or residual materials from the mine operation which would prevent revegetation. Regrading of the excavation disturbances would disturb some of vegetation which has invaded, however, this natural vegetation would quickly re-establish itself in one or two growing seasons after earthwork. The deeper excavations do not appear to pose a significant safety hazard. Since the site is easily accessible on previously existing roads and because it appears to be a desirable camp site, reclamation of more than just the excavations would be futile without blocking the access route.

The Division will need to review the file and coordinate with the BLM to determine what the next course of action for this site should be. The operator has not responded to annual report requests or paid the appropriate permit fee.

jb  
cc: Roger Mahoney, Operator  
Sal Venticinque, BLM, Moab Field Office  
s19-36.ins











